

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:
 - an inter-company collaboration system comprising:
 - a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by a first company;
 - a first data storage mechanism associated with the first set of utility servers,
the first data storage mechanism storing a set of execution data;
 - a first set of resources residing on the first set of utility servers, wherein the first set of resources comprises an application that executes on the first set of utility servers and that operates on the set of execution data;
 - a secure network connection between the first set of utility servers and a second company; and
 - a first access control mechanism configured to control access, by the first company and the second company, to the first set of resources and to the secure network connection, wherein access to the first set of resources is limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated with the first company and specific authorized individuals that are associated with the second company; and
 - an isolated system that is communicatively coupled to the collaboration system, comprising:
 - a second set of one or more utility servers maintained by the first company;

a second set of resources residing on the second set of utility servers, wherein the second set of resources comprises the application and a set of debugging resources;

a second data storage mechanism associated with the second set of utility servers, the second data storage mechanism including:

a first storage portion that contains data that is shared with the collaboration system, including the set of execution data; and
a second storage portion that contains data that is private to the isolated system; and

a second access control mechanism configured to control access to the second set of utility servers, wherein access to the second set of utility servers is limited to specific authorized individuals that are associated only with the first company;

wherein the application is executed on the second set of utility servers and operates on the set of execution data stored in the first storage portion of the second data storage mechanism.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a switching mechanism coupled to the first data storage mechanism and the second data storage mechanism, configured to control copying of the data that is shared with the collaboration system to the first and second data storage mechanisms and to control copying of the data that is private to the isolated system to only the second data storage mechanism.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the data that is private to the isolated system includes source code associated with a ~~software~~ the application.
4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the ~~software~~ application is an electronic design automation (EDA) application.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the set of execution data that is shared with between the collaboration system and the isolated system includes a set of data that represents an electronic design created using the ~~software~~ application.
6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~4~~ 3, wherein the ~~isolated system~~ second set of resources further comprises:
~~a second set of resources residing on the second set of utility servers, wherein the~~
~~second set of resources includes~~ a compiler for compiling the source code
associated with the application.
- 7-11 Canceled
12. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the set of debugging resources is used by one or more authorized individuals associated with the first company to debug the application.
13. (New) A method comprising:
controlling access to a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by a first company,
wherein access to the first set of utility servers is limited to authorized individuals

associated the first company and authorized individuals associated with a second company to enable the first company and the second company to collaborate using the first set of utility servers;

executing an application on the first set of utility servers, wherein the application operates on a set of execution data;

controlling access to a second set of one or more utility servers maintained by the first company, wherein access to the second set of utility servers is limited to authorized individuals associated with the first company only such that the second set of utility servers is isolated from the second company;

sharing the set of execution data between the first set of utility servers and the second set of utility servers;

executing the application on the second set of utility servers, and having the application operate on the set of execution data to recreate on the second set of utility servers one or more situations encountered on the first set of utility servers; and

debugging the application on the second set of utility servers, wherein the set of utility servers has access to private data that is not accessible to the first set of utility servers.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the private data comprises source code for the application, and wherein debugging the application comprises making one or more changes to the source code to derive a set of updated source code.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

compiling the updated source code on the second set of utility servers.

16. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the application is an electronic design automation (EDA) application, and wherein the set of execution data represents an electronic design created using the EDA application.

17. (New) A system comprising:

means for controlling access to a first set of one or more utility servers maintained by a first company, wherein access to the first set of utility servers is limited to authorized individuals associated the first company and authorized individuals associated with a second company to enable the first company and the second company to collaborate using the first set of utility servers;

means for executing an application on the first set of utility servers, wherein the application operates on a set of execution data;

means for controlling access to a second set of one or more utility servers maintained by the first company, wherein access to the second set of utility servers is limited to authorized individuals associated with the first company only such that the second set of utility servers is isolated from the second company;

means for sharing the set of execution data between the first set of utility servers and the second set of utility servers;

means for executing the application on the second set of utility servers, and having the application operate on the set of execution data to recreate on the second set of utility servers one or more situations encountered on the first set of utility servers; and

means for debugging the application on the second set of utility servers, wherein the set of utility servers has access to private data that is not accessible to the first set of utility servers.

18. (New) The system of claim 17, wherein the private data comprises source code for the application, and wherein the means for debugging the application comprises means for making one or more changes to the source code to derive a set of updated source code.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, further comprising:
means for compiling the updated source code on the second set of utility servers.

20. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the application is an electronic design automation (EDA) application, and wherein the set of execution data represents an electronic design created using the EDA application.